

Message Text

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TO WHITE HOUSE

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TOSEC 19 WHITE HOUSE PASS SALZBURG INFO FOR LES JANKA

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT RICHARD WILSON EDITORIAL COLUMN PAGE
14 MONDAY, JUNE 10, WASH STAR HEADLINED "CALL FOR KISSINGER
CANDOR".

2. HENRY A. KISSINGER'S NEWEST PROBLEM IS NOT A SMALL ONE.
IT INVOLVES WHETHER OR NOT HE TOLD THE WHOLE TRUTH WHEN HE
CATEGORICALLY STATED UNDER OATH THAT HE HAD NO PART IN
INITIATING WIRETAPS IN 1969-70 ON SOME OF HIS AIDES AND
NEWSMEN IN SEARCH OF EVIDENCE OF THEIR COMPLICITY IN
DISCLOSING SENSITIVE AND SECRET NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMA-
TION.

3. HIS TESTIMONY UNDER OATH WAS UNEQUIVOCAL. HE SWORE
UNDER QUESTIONING BY SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT THAT NOT A
SINGLE ONE OF THE 17 WIRETAPS AUTHORIZED BY THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL WAS INITIATED BY KISSINGER.

4. HE HAD SUPPLIED SOME NAMES OF THOSE WITH ACCESS TO THE
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KIND OF INFORMATION IN QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL

CRITERIA OF A PREVIOUS DECISION ON PROTECTING THE NATIONAL SECURITY. AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN, KISSINGER ADDED, THAT THE FBI UNDER J. EDGAR HOOVER MAY HAVE HAD A DIFFERENT

PERCEPTION OF WHAT WAS CALLED FOR. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SURPRISING, BECAUSE THE FBI BASED ITS PERCEPTIONS ON WIRETAP AUTHORIZATIONS RECEIVED FROM ATTY. GEN. JOHN MITCHELL.

5. SOMEWHERE IN HERE THERE ARE SOME GAPS, AND IN ALL THE GLORY OF HIS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE COMPELLED TO FILL THEM IN. THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS HEARD A DIFFERENT STORY THAN KISSINGER TOLD FULBRIGHT. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY ITS INVESTIGATIVE STAFF THAT KISSINGER'S INVOLVEMENT WAS MORE DIRECT. AND A NEW REVELATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S CONVERSATIONS HAS HIM SAYING THAT KISSINGER "ASKED THAT IT BE DONE."

6. SO, IT IS THE OLD STORY. DENIALS AND INJURED INNOCENCE WHERE COMPLETE CANDOR IS CALLED FOR. KISSINGER WILL HAVE TO SAY MORE AND HE MAY AS WELL SAY IT NOW.

7. WHO CAN SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT KISSINGER WAS ANGRY AND PERTURBED OVER THE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF FINAL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION? THIS INFORMATION AND MORE WAS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND, WHERE COULD IT HAVE COME FROM?

8. AS THE WORKING HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE TIME, KISSINGER AND HIS TOP AIDE, GEN. ALEXANDER M. HAIG, WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLS NOT TO SUSPECT SOMEONE IN THE NSC STAFF. THEY COULD REASONABLY CONCLUDE THAT SUCH LEAKS OF INFORMATION WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERMINING POLICY LINES WITH WHICH THE LEAKERS DISAGREED, BY EXPOSING THEM TO PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. INTERNAL SABOTAGE IS NOT UNKNOWN AT THESE HIGH LEVELS WHERE INTRIGUE IS IMBIBED WITH THE FOOD IN THE WHITE HOUSE MESS AND WILLS COLLIDE OVER TRIFLES.

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9. ANYWAY, EXACTLY HOW WRONG WAS IT TO TRY TO RUN DOWN LEAKS OF INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS THE NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH DULY AUTHORIZED WIRETAPS? THAT QUESTION WOULD BE EASIER TO ANSWER IF THE WIRETAPS HAD PRODUCED THE EVIDENCE SOUGHT. BUT THEY REVEALED ONLY SUCH SECURITY INFORMATION AS AN INTEREST IN PORNOGRAPHIC BOOKSHOPS AND HINTS OF AN EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR. LIKE SO MUCH ELSE IN THE WATERGATE ATMOSPHERE, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE

FARCICAL.

10. KISSINGER'S PROBLEM NOW, AND WHY HE HAS NOT FACED IT BEFORE TELLS TOO MUCH ABOUT THE CONSPIRATORIAL ATMOSPHERE, IS TO JUSTIFY PUBLICLY WHAT HE DID TO PLUG THE LEAKS WHICH WERE EMBARRASSING HIM AND THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, AND WHY HE DID IT. KISSINGER IS NOT SO INNOCENT

OF INTRIGUE THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN WHAT THE SUPPLY-
ING OF NAMES OF SUSPECTED LEAKERS MIGHT LEAD TO.

11. HE ADMITS THAT HE DID SUPPLY NAMES AND THAT ACT ALONE IS IRRETRIEVABLE WHETHER OR NOT HE MADE A "DIRECT" RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS KIND OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. KISSINGER WAS INVOLVED FROM THAT POINT ONWARD, AND THERE ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS THAT HE ANGRILY DEMANDED ACTION FROM FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT THE WHOLE BUSINESS.

12. THE SAD PART OF THIS IS THAT KISSINGER HAS GOTTEN INTO A PROBLEM AT A TIME WHEN HIS SUCCESS WAS SO GREAT, BUT HE IS NOT ALONE IN THAT. NOR IS HE ALONE IN SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF COMPLETE CANDOR WHEN FIRST CONFRONTED WITH SUSPICIONS HE CONSIDERED WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED.
PRESIDENT NIXON LED THE WAY DOWN THAT PATH. SISCO

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